

**§ 148.103 Family grouping of allowances.**

(a) *Generally.* When members of a family residing in one household travel together on their return to the United States, the flat rate of duty allowance will be grouped and allowed without regard to which member of the family is the owner of the articles. A group allowance shall not include an allowance for a family member not entitled to it in his own right, nor shall a group allowance be applied to any property of that member.

(b) *Members of a family residing in one household.* “Members of a family residing in one household” shall include all persons, regardless of age, who:

(1) Are related by blood, marriage, or adoption;

(2) Lived together in one household at their last permanent residence; and

(3) Intend to live in one household after their arrival in the United States.

[T.D. 78–394, 43 FR 49789, Oct. 25, 1978]

**§ 148.104 Frequency of use.**

(a) *30-day period.* The flat rate of duty shall not apply to a person who has used the provision within the 30-day period immediately prior to his arrival in the United States. The date of the person’s last arrival on which he declared articles for which the flat rate of duty was applicable shall be considered the date that rate was last used.

(b) *Computation of time.* The 30-day period immediately prior to the person’s arrival in the United States shall be computed by excluding the day of arrival and counting backward 30 days.

(c) *Remainder not applicable to subsequent journey.* A person who has received a flat rate of duty allowance of less than \$1,000 in connection with his return from one journey is not entitled to apply the remainder to articles acquired abroad on a subsequent journey.

[T.D. 78–394, 43 FR 49789, Oct. 25, 1978, as amended by T.D. 86–118, 51 FR 22516, June 20, 1986; T.D. 97–75, 62 FR 46443, Sept. 3, 1997]

**§ 148.105 Procedure for excluding articles from flat rate of duty.**

(a) *Generally.* Any person who has information that merchandise is being imported into the United States under the provisions of subheading 9816.00.20

or 9816.00.40, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202), and this subpart which adversely affects the economic interest of the United States may communicate the information in writing to the Commissioner of Customs, Attention: Office of Field Operations, Washington, DC 20229.

(b) *Content of communication.* The communication to the Commissioner need not be in any particular form but shall contain the following:

(1) The name of the individual and the person, firm, or association the individual represents, if any;

(2) The nature of the individual’s interest in the matter, if any;

(3) A description of the merchandise, which it is alleged affects the economic interest of the United States adversely, including subheadings of the HTSUS, if known;

(4) The country of acquisition and the ports and dates of entry of the merchandise, if known; and

(5) A statement and supporting evidence as to the manner in which the individual believes the economic interest of the United States is being adversely affected.

(c) *Inquiry to be conducted.* Upon receipt of a communication containing the information required by paragraph (b) of this section, an inquiry will be conducted.

(d) *Negative determination.* If the inquiry results in a finding that no reasonable cause exists to believe that the application of the flat rate of duty provisions to a particular article of merchandise is adversely affecting the economic interest of the United States, the inquirer shall be advised in writing of the finding and the matter shall be closed.

(e) *Publication of tentative finding.* If the inquiry results in a finding by the Secretary of the Treasury that reasonable cause exists to believe that the application of the flat rate of duty provisions to a particular article of merchandise is affecting the economic interest of the United States adversely, a notice of the finding will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and Customs